

# Carbon

## County

### A Ray of Sunshine for Carbon

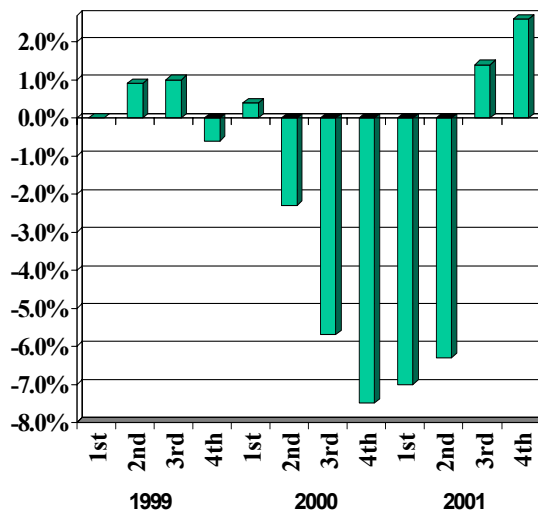
Carbon County's economy received a much-needed shot-in-the-arm in the second half of 2001 boosted by an upswing in construction jobs. Nonfarm jobs rose 1.4 percent year-over in the third quarter of 2001, and 2.6 percent for the fourth quarter of 2001. Total nonfarm employment increased year-over by 170 jobs during the last six-months of 2001. This is the first significant up-tick in nonagricultural employment since late 1997. During July-December of 2001, goods-producing industries accounted for most of the job growth. Service-producing jobs, on the other hand, recorded a slight decline.

**July-December  
2001**

### Unemployment Holds Steady

The job growth experienced during the second half of 2001, combined with out-migration and a contraction in the labor force, helped to drive unemployment rates down. Both the third and fourth quarters of 2001 showed unemployment in Carbon County at 5.7 percent, compared with an unemployment rate of 6.2 percent for the last six-months of 2000. An estimated 470 county residents were unemployed.

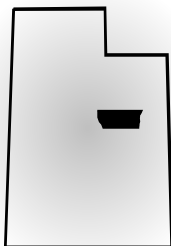
### Carbon County Year-Over Growth in Nonfarm Jobs



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## Economic Newsletter

**Published July 2002**



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*Current through December 2002*

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# Just the Facts

	3rd Quarter			4th Quarter		
	2001	2000	Percent Change	2001	2000	Percent Change
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	6.7%	--	5.7%	5.8%	--
<b>Nonfarm Jobs</b>	<b>8,703</b>	<b>8,586</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>8,912</b>	<b>8,690</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
Total Construction (000s)	\$8,331.9	\$6,204.1	34.3%	\$2,526.3	\$1,307.2	93.3%
<b>New Dwelling Unit Permits</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-19.0%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>80.0%</b>
Taxable Sales (000s)	\$90,568.8	\$85,644.7	5.7%	\$97,467.2	\$85,499.8	14.0%



## Summary

- Carbon County's employment total improved during the last two quarters of 2001, lead by a jump in temporary construction jobs.
- The 2.6 percent increase in jobs in the fourth quarter of 2001 is the strongest rate of job growth since fourth quarter of 1997.
- Mining employment showed slight improvement in the fourth quarter.
- Services industry jobs falter in data processing, health care, industrial repair, and engineering services.
- Trade continued its decline - retail jobs are down 3.7 percent.
- The bright spots: Transportation services increase as do finance and real estate.
- Permit authorized building shot up in the third and fourth quarters of 2001 - A Super Wal-Mart was a major factor.
- Gross taxable retail sales improved by 10 percent.

## Construction Expands

On the bright side was hearty growth in the goods producing industries. Construction led the way adding nearly 300 year-over jobs during the last half of 2001. Work on major roadways and pipelines were the driving force behind the jump in activity. However, this good news needs to be tempered somewhat, as construction jobs frequently provide only temporary respite and will not sustain future growth. In fact, if construction jobs are factored out, nonagricultural employment would have declined in both the third and fourth quarters of 2001.

### ... More Good News

Manufacturing employment rose 4.4 percent adding just fewer than 20 jobs as industrial machinery added positions. This stands in stark contrast to the national downturn in manufacturing employment and in Utah. Mining, in the fourth quarter of 2001, started to again show life as a few jobs were added in coal mining. Still, the last six-months show mining jobs down 7.6 percent compared to the last half of 2000.

Two service-producing sectors aided the employment picture as well. Transportation, communications, and utilities added around 30 jobs during the last six-months of 2001. Trucking and air service jobs were the catalysts of growth. Finance, insurance, and real estate jobs rose by 13.2 percent, or about 24 positions, lead by non-bank lending services.

## Services, Trade and Government Remain Down

Services employment fell 3.9 percent, or nearly 80 jobs during the last half of 2001. Computer business services, industrial repair services, health services, and engineering services all experienced double-digit numeric declines in jobs. Helping to keep the bottom from completely falling out were social services and temporary help services, which showed increases.

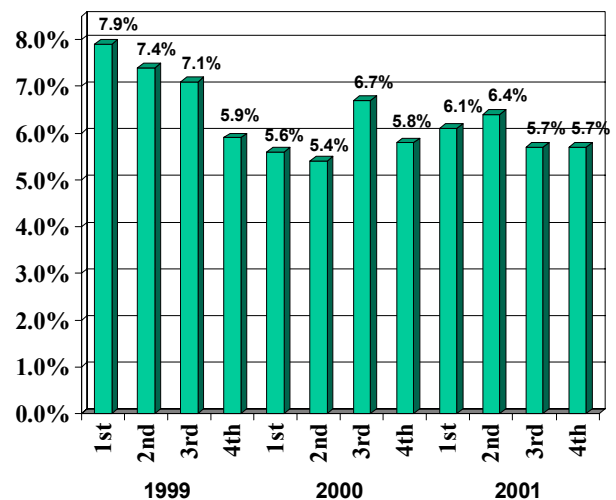
Trade employment also slipped by 2.5 percent, with most of the losses concentrated in retail trade at department, food, and garden center stores. Automobile dealers and service station employment declines added to retail trades' woes. Only eating and drinking establishments showed any gains. Government jobs were off a slight 0.6 percent

for the last six-months of 2001. State and federal jobs were virtually unchanged, while local government employment fell in social services and education.

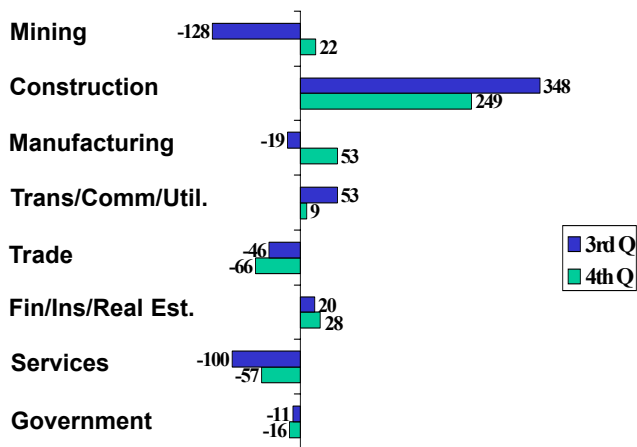
## Building is Upbeat

The rise in construction activity in the second half of 2001 is also reflected by the data for construction permits issued in Carbon County. The total value of permit-authorized construction rose 44.7 percent from \$7.5 million during the last half of 2000 to \$10.8 million for the last half of 2001. Both the third and fourth quarters showed increases. Residential units increased from 31 to 35, while the value of residential construction rose from just under a million dollars to \$1.5 million. Even more impressive was the robust jump in nonresidential valuations that rose from \$1.8 million for the last half of 2000 to \$8.7 million in the last half of 2001. Most of the increase was due to the new Super Wal-Mart Store in Price.

### Carbon County Unemployment Rates



## Carbon County Nonfarm Job Growth: 2000-2001



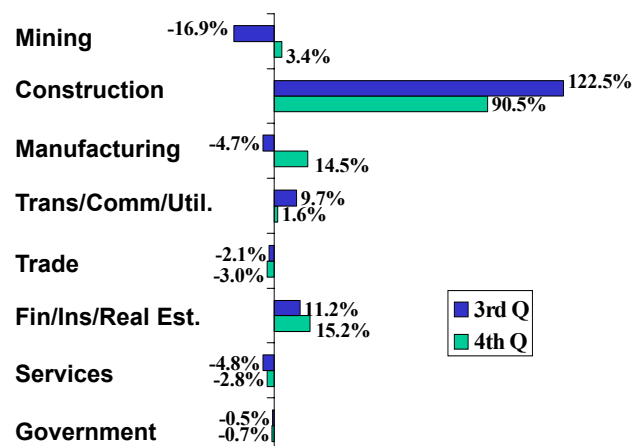
## Recovery Will Be Slow

Even though the second half of 2001 provided Carbon County with a chance to bask in the warmth of economic sunlight, the uncertainty of dark economic clouds still hang on the horizon, as the temporary impact of construction jobs will pass in 2002. The “crisis” in energy also appears to have abated, which will reduce the demand for coal. Still, the mining industry showed slight improvement during the fourth quarter of 2001 and the prospects of a new mine opening in Lila Canyon helps to brighten the future outlook. Don’t anticipate a quick turn around in retail and services employment, as the effects of the national and Utah recessions will combine to slow improvements in Carbon County’s economy.

## Sales Improve

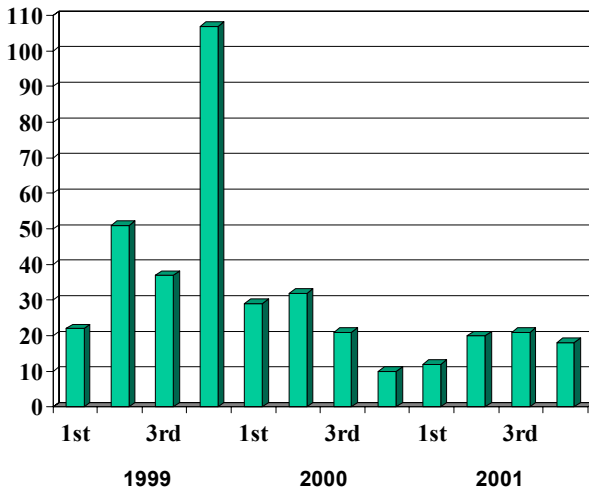
The improved economic conditions were reflected in gross taxable retail sales, which rose to a healthy \$188.0 million, an increase of 9.9 percent in the second half of 2001 over 2000. Retail sales rose 5.7 percent to \$83.1 million as building and garden stores and automobile sales improved. General merchandise stores also reported increased sales. Wholesale trade also registered impressive growth during the second half of 2001, rising 15.9 percent to \$44.3 million. Construction sales rose 115.8 percent, while mining sales were up 22.0 percent. Manufacturing sales also jumped by 42.2 percent. Services sales were the only area to show a slump, dropping 3.3 percent. Declines in business services, health, and recreation accounted for the decline.

## Carbon County Nonfarm Job Growth: 2000-2001

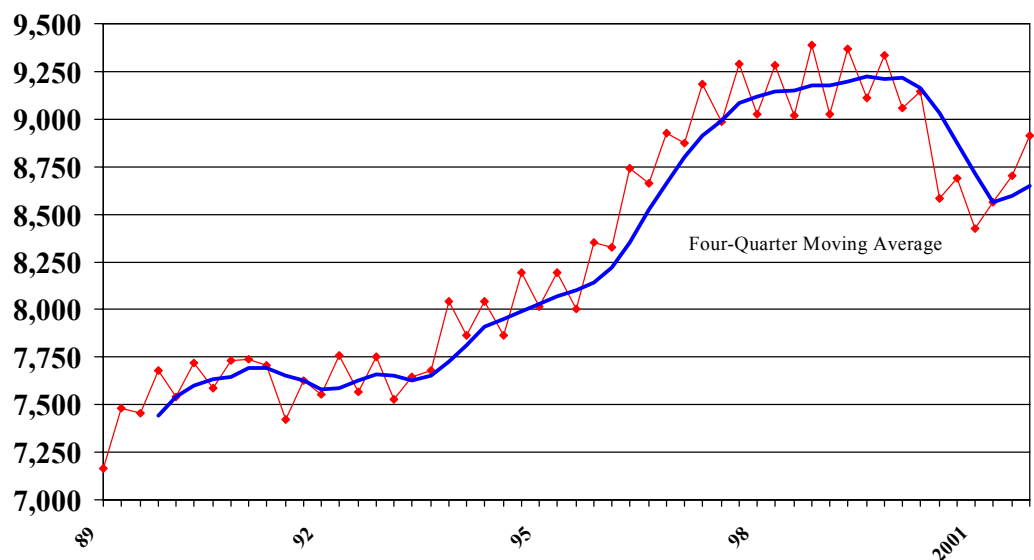


## Carbon County Residential Construction Approvals

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## Carbon County Quarterly Total Nonagricultural Employment 1989-2001



# Economic Events

UtahAmerican Energy Inc. is proceeding with plans to develop a large underground coal mine at its Lila Canyon property. A timetable for when the mine will open is still uncertain. (*Deseret News*, 7/3/2002)

An agreement between Utah State Univeristy (USU) and the College of Eastern Utah (CEU) will offer two-for-one admissions beginning in Fall 2003, making it easier and cheaper for students to earn a college degree. Under the agreement, any student admitted to CEU will simultaneously be admitted to USU. (*Salt Lake Tribune*, 7/2/2002)

The Price City Council approved the construction of a multi-speciality surgical center to be built on Fairgrounds Road. The state-of-the-art new facility will have two operating rooms, a minor procedures room, and laser room. Construction began in June and should be completed by December. (*Sun Advocate*, 6/27/2002)

A new Big O Tire store was opened in Price at 790 West Price River Drive. (*Sun Advocate*, 6/27/2002)

UtahAmerican Energy Inc (UEI) is seeking to add 4,100 acres to its coal reserves adjacent to its proposed LilaCanyon Mine near Sunnyside. If the lease sale is approved, the company would nearly double its holdings. The permit for the Lila Canyon mine cleared processing by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, and BLM rights of way have received provisional approval. Construction on the mine and roads are underway. UEI expects annual production of up to 5 million tons from the mine. (*Deseret News*, 3/21/2002)

The Carbon County commissioner's received a recommendation from a subcommittee to move ahead with construction of an events and convention center in Price. The proposed 66,000 square-foot structure would have an arena with seating for 6,000, concession areas, kitchens, offices, a 12,000 square-foot convention center that could accommodate 1,700 persons, and parking. The county will pursue funding options from the Community Impact Board, restaurant tax, and the county's recreation and transportation districts. (*Salt Lake Tribune*, 3/21/2002)

The second phase of Main Street Construction is underway in Price. The \$859,430 three-month project will upgrade the road from Carbon Avenue to 300 East. (*Sun Advocate*, 3/5/2002)

# LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

## Carbon County

	Third Quarter (July-Sept)				Fourth Quarter (Oct-Dec)			
	2001(p)	2000	Percent Change	Numeric Change	2001(p)	2000	Percent Change	Numeric Change
<b>Civilian Labor Force(1)</b>	<b>8,324</b>	<b>9,169</b>	<b>-9.2</b>	<b>-845</b>	<b>8,134</b>	<b>9,150</b>	<b>-11.1</b>	<b>-1,016</b>
Employed	7,847	8,557	-8.3	-710	7,666	8,617	-11.0	-951
Unemployed	477	611	-21.9	-134	468	533	-12.2	-65
<i>Percent of Labor force</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>6.7</i>			<i>5.8</i>	<i>5.8</i>		
<b>Total Nonagricultural Jobs(2)</b>	<b>8,703</b>	<b>8,586</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>8,912</b>	<b>8,690</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>222</b>
Goods Production	1,652	1,451	13.9	201	1,606	1,282	25.3	324
Mining	631	759	-16.9	-128	663	641	3.4	22
Contract Construction	632	284	122.5	348	524	275	90.5	249
Manufacturing	389	408	-4.7	-19	419	366	14.5	53
Service Production	7,051	7,135	-1.2	-84	7,306	7,408	-1.4	-102
Trans., Comm., Pub. Util.	598	545	9.7	53	570	561	1.6	9
Trade	2,138	2,184	-2.1	-46	2,165	2,231	-3.0	-66
<i>Wholesale</i>	<i>459</i>	<i>451</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>464</i>	<i>455</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Retail</i>	<i>1,679</i>	<i>1,733</i>	<i>-3.1</i>	<i>-54</i>	<i>1,701</i>	<i>1,776</i>	<i>-4.2</i>	<i>-75</i>
Fin., Ins., & Real Estate	199	179	11.2	20	212	184	15.2	28
Service	1,964	2,064	-4.8	-100	1,953	2,010	-2.8	-57
Government	2,152	2,163	-0.5	-11	2,406	2,422	-0.7	-16
<i>Federal</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>State</i>	<i>662</i>	<i>678</i>	<i>-2.4</i>	<i>-16</i>	<i>772</i>	<i>755</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Local</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>1,299</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1,464</i>	<i>1,501</i>	<i>-2.5</i>	<i>-37</i>
<b>Total Covered Employment(3)</b>	<b>8,726</b>	<b>8,608</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>8,933</b>	<b>8,713</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>220</b>
Covered Agricultural Employment	23	22	4.5	1	21	23	-8.7	-2

(1) Seasonally Adjusted.

(2) Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

(3) Employment covered by Unemployment Insurance laws.

p = Preliminary; Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services.

# Carbon County

## Permit-Authorized Construction

	Third Quarter (July-Sept)			Fourth Quarter (Oct-Dec)			6-month Totals		
	2000	2001	Percent Change	2000	2001	Percent Change	2000	2001	Percent Change
<b>Carbon County</b>									
New Dwelling Units	21	17	-19.0%	10	18	80.0%	31	35	12.9%
Single-Family	3	1	-66.7%	1	5	400.0%	4	6	50.0%
Multifamily	0	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	--
Mobile/Maufactured/Cabins	18	16	-11.1%	9	13	44.4%	27	29	7.4%
New Residential (\$000)	699.9	559.9	-20.0%	178.6	930.6	421.1%	878.5	1,490.5	69.7%
New Nonresidential(\$000)	1,098.5	7,467.5	579.8%	718.1	1,149.9	60.1%	1,816.6	8,617.4	374.4%
Additions/Alterations/Repairs	4,405.7	304.5	-93.1%	410.5	445.8	8.6%	4,816.2	750.3	-84.4%
Residential (\$000)	383.3	230.6	-39.8%	234.7	304.6	29.8%	618.0	535.2	-13.4%
Nonresidential (\$000)	4,022.4	73.9	-98.2%	175.8	141.2	-19.7%	4,198.2	215.1	-94.9%
<b>Total (\$000)</b>	<b>6,204.1</b>	<b>8,331.9</b>	<b>34.3%</b>	<b>1,307.2</b>	<b>2,526.3</b>	<b>93.3%</b>	<b>7,511.3</b>	<b>10,858.2</b>	<b>44.6%</b>
<b>East Carbon-Sunnyside</b>									
New Dwelling Units	0	2	--	0	0	--	0	2	--
Single-Family	0	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	--
Multifamily	0	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	--
Mobile/Maufactured/Cabins	0	2	--	0	0	--	0	2	--
New Residential (\$000)	0.0	4.8	--	0.0	0.0	--	0.0	4.8	--
New Nonresidential(\$000)	11.2	6.5	-42.0%	39.1	0.0	-100.0%	50.3	6.5	-87.1%
Additions/Alterations/Repairs	34.0	14.0	-58.8%	26.2	11.0	-58.0%	60.2	25.0	-58.1%
Residential (\$000)	34.0	14.0	-58.8%	26.2	10.5	-59.9%	60.2	24.5	-59.3%
Nonresidential (\$000)	0.0	0.0	--	0.0	0.5	--	0.0	0.5	--
<b>Total (\$000)</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>-44.0%</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>-83.2%</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>-67.1%</b>
<b>Helper-Price-Wellington</b>									
New Dwelling Units	11	3	-72.7%	8	4	-50.0%	19	7	-63.2%
Single-Family	1	0	-100.0%	1	0	-100.0%	2	0	-100.0%
Multifamily	0	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	--
Mobile/Maufactured/Cabins	10	3	-70.0%	7	4	-42.9%	17	7	-58.8%
New Residential (\$000)	469.9	16.2	-96.6%	164.7	75.4	-54.2%	634.6	91.6	-85.6%
New Nonresidential(\$000)	210.2	6,396.1	2942.9%	29.3	978.6	3239.9%	239.5	7,374.7	2979.2%
Additions/Alterations/Repairs	4,194.8	215.1	-94.9%	363.6	236.0	-35.1%	4,558.4	451.1	-90.1%
Residential (\$000)	215.7	142.2	-34.1%	195.5	104.4	-46.6%	411.2	246.6	-40.0%
Nonresidential (\$000)	3,979.1	72.9	-98.2%	168.1	131.6	-21.7%	4,147.2	204.5	-95.1%
<b>Total (\$000)</b>	<b>4,874.9</b>	<b>6,627.4</b>	<b>35.9%</b>	<b>557.6</b>	<b>1,290.0</b>	<b>131.3%</b>	<b>5,432.5</b>	<b>7,917.4</b>	<b>45.7%</b>
<b>Other Carbon County</b>									
New Dwelling Units	10	12	20.0%	2	14	600.0%	12	26	116.7%
Single-Family	2	1	-50.0%	0	5	--	2	6	200.0%
Multifamily	0	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	--
Mobile/Maufactured/Cabins	8	11	37.5%	2	9	350.0%	10	20	100.0%
New Residential (\$000)	230.0	538.9	134.3%	13.9	855.2	6052.5%	243.9	1,394.1	471.6%
New Nonresidential(\$000)	877.1	1,064.9	21.4%	649.7	171.3	-73.6%	1,526.8	1,236.2	-19.0%
Additions/Alterations/Repairs	176.9	48.0	-72.9%	20.7	198.8	860.4%	197.6	246.8	24.9%
Residential (\$000)	133.6	46.5	-65.2%	13.0	189.7	1359.2%	146.6	236.2	61.1%
Nonresidential (\$000)	43.3	1.0	-97.7%	7.7	9.1	18.2%	51.0	10.1	-80.2%
<b>Total (\$000)</b>	<b>1,284.0</b>	<b>1,651.8</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>684.3</b>	<b>1,225.3</b>	<b>79.1%</b>	<b>1,968.3</b>	<b>2,877.1</b>	<b>46.2%</b>

Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Utah.



# Carbon County

## Gross Taxable Retail Sales

Standard Industrial Classification	3rd Quarter (July - Sept)			4th Quarter (Oct - Dec)		
	2000	2001	% Chng	2000	2001	% Chng
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	--	--	--	\$7,150	--	--
Mining	4,414,953	4,599,631	4.2	5,983,103	8,090,522	35.2
Construction	337,273	3,412,951	911.9	2,458,430	2,621,501	6.6
Manufacturing	3,005,798	4,194,149	39.5	2,856,108	4,142,582	45.0
Transportation	603,797	765,109	26.7	627,871	472,290	-24.8
Communications	3,100,102	2,256,269	-27.2	2,975,288	2,106,269	-29.2
Electric & Gas	3,031,184	3,344,710	10.3	4,404,543	4,268,791	-3.1
<b>Total Wholesale Trade Sales</b>	<b>21,848,187</b>	<b>23,348,733</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>16,424,139</b>	<b>21,026,134</b>	<b>28.0</b>
Durable Goods	18,906,798	18,328,571	-3.1	14,407,487	17,826,450	23.7
Nondurable Goods	2,941,389	5,020,162	70.7	2,016,652	3,199,684	58.7
<b>Total Retail Trade Sales</b>	<b>38,062,987</b>	<b>38,729,815</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>40,510,464</b>	<b>44,351,624</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Building and Garden Stores	2,489,937	2,668,568	7.2	1,241,175	2,860,168	130.4
General Merchandise Stores	9,454,017	9,822,103	3.9	12,800,619	13,617,702	6.4
Food Stores	9,943,340	9,707,312	-2.4	10,368,262	10,666,858	2.9
Motor Vehicle Dealers	7,478,007	8,002,697	7.0	6,743,357	7,872,253	16.7
Apparel & Accessory Stores	208,235	207,890	-0.2	253,911	241,669	-4.8
Furniture Stores	1,294,134	1,180,558	-8.8	1,525,919	1,532,493	0.4
Eating & Drinking	3,873,048	3,859,357	-0.4	3,567,592	3,466,159	-2.8
Miscellaneous	3,322,269	3,281,330	-1.2	4,009,629	4,094,322	2.1
<b>Finance, Insurance, Real Estate</b>	<b>452,927</b>	<b>305,754</b>	<b>-32.5</b>	<b>529,562</b>	<b>293,978</b>	<b>-44.5</b>
<b>Total Service Sales</b>	<b>9,573,219</b>	<b>7,992,631</b>	<b>-16.5</b>	<b>7,878,264</b>	<b>8,890,855</b>	<b>12.9</b>
Hotels & Lodging	889,042	936,917	5.4	521,642	577,172	10.6
Personal	247,211	270,794	9.5	341,383	369,509	8.2
Business	2,810,882	1,291,325	-54.1	1,795,011	2,038,689	13.6
Auto & Misc. Repair	4,552,437	4,471,751	-1.8	3,945,121	4,972,359	26.0
Amusement & Recreation	655,270	653,640	-0.2	629,536	517,496	-17.8
Health	347,995	333,566	-4.1	447,169	298,273	-33.3
Education, Legal, Social	70,382	34,638	-50.8	198,402	117,357	-40.8
<b>Public Administration</b>	<b>83,449</b>	<b>57,823</b>	<b>-30.7</b>	<b>30,735</b>	<b>60,991</b>	<b>98.4</b>
<b>Private Motor Vehicle Sales</b>	<b>1,242,828</b>	<b>1,368,154</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>803,219</b>	<b>956,397</b>	<b>19.1</b>
<b>Occasional Retail Sales</b>	<b>-271,148</b>	<b>58,780</b>	<b>-121.7</b>	<b>-253,918</b>	<b>6,863</b>	<b>-102.7</b>
<b>Nondisclosable or Nonclassifiable</b>	<b>159,150</b>	<b>134,338</b>	<b>-15.6</b>	<b>264,840</b>	<b>178,446</b>	<b>-32.6</b>
<b>Total (Current Period)</b>	<b>85,644,706</b>	<b>90,568,847</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>85,499,798</b>	<b>97,467,243</b>	<b>14.0</b>
Prior Period Payments/Adjust/Refunds	-325,526	3,739,816	-1248.9	193,616	485,623	150.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$85,319,180</b>	<b>\$94,308,663</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>\$85,693,414</b>	<b>\$97,952,866</b>	<b>14.3</b>

Source: Utah State Tax Commission.

# Employers' Corner



Smart business people know where to find the latest, most accurate information available about economic trends, the labor market, cost of living and industry trends. There's county-level economic information too, and it's all FREE on the DWS Economic Information Web site: <http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/>.

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES

140 East 300 South  
PO Box 45249  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

03-13EC-0702

Equal Opportunity Employment Program auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128.



# Utah!

*Where ideas connect™*



The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.

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***We welcome your comments, questions and feedback!***